

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Planning Policy Commission

6:30 PM
 June 10, 2021

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Alternate Meeting Format: On March 6, 2020 the Mayor declared a civil emergency due to the outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). On March 24, 2020 the Governor issued Proclamation 20-28 relating to the COVID-19 emergency and open public meetings. The proclamation has been extended. Due to these factors, the meeting was held using a remote meeting platform.

Commissioners Present:

Ron Faul, Chair
 Sara Bader
 Nina Milligan
 Matt Monahan
 Richard Zaragoza, Alternate (acting as voting member)

Administration/Staff:

Christen Leeson, Senior Planner
 Minnie Dhaliwal, CP&D Director

Commissioners Not Present:

Joy Lewis (Excused)
 Jason Voiss (Excused)

CALL TO ORDER

FAUL, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. He provided some guidelines for participation in tonight's virtual meeting, including ways to provide public comment, and gave an overview of tonight's agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) FAUL asked for corrections or changes to minutes of May 27, 2021. BADER corrected the spelling of her name in the list of Commissioners. Minutes are approved with correction noted.

REGULAR BUSINESS

2021 Comprehensive Plan Amendments:

- a) **Olde Town, (D)**

Presented by:

Christen Leeson, Senior Planner

Leeson made staff's presentation and explained the process for reviewing and taking action on Comp Plan amendments. She explained the policy changes proposed for Olde Town, as explained on page 14, and progress on the Olde Town Action Plan, pages 15-18. There were no questions from Commissioners.

- b) **Redesignations and Rezones, (D)**

Presented by:

Christen Leeson, Senior Planner

Leeson explained why and when redesignation and rezones are needed, and gave details about the proposed changes under discussion tonight to Blackberry Park (pages 21-28). MILLIGAN asked whether there have been some conversations with neighbors about the proposed

changes. Leeson replied the staff has talked with the neighborhood, but a finalized plan has not yet been proposed.

MONAHAN suggested that photographs of the properties proposed for redesignations and rezones would be useful. Staff made a note of it.

Leeson continued her presentation on the Newport Area redesignation/rezone (pages 29-37). MILLIGAN asked about wetlands in the area. Leeson replied almost the entire parcel is wetland. The area is adjacent to Tibbetts Creek and there are small wetlands throughout. The entire area will not be developed, she added. FAUL asked who will be responsible for maintaining these parcels after they are developed into park and recreation space. Leeson replied as they will be open to the public, maintaining them will be the City's responsibility. FAUL asked about parking for the public, and whether there would be a general feeling that the public is welcome. Leeson replied the plan calls for seven parking spaces, one of which is ADA. She said she is not aware of what plans the Parks Department may have for marketing the parcels as public spaces and can find out more from Parks.

Leeson presented information on the proposed Harvey Manning Park Extension (pages 39-46) and gave some history on ownership of the property, including current and proposed zoning. She noted six of the seven parcels are owned by the City; one is owned by the County. She showed where trails will connect in the parcels. All parcels are required to remain as open space into perpetuity. There were no questions from Commissioners.

c) **Public Facilities Map, (D)**

Presented by:

Christen Leeson, Senior Planner

Leeson displayed a Facilities Map and explained proposed changes, as described on page 49.

BADER asked whether the proposed changes to the parcels in the Harvey Manning Park extension would result in a sizable change in new residential housing capacity. Leeson replied no; it would be very difficult to build housing because the area is very steep. It would be difficult to build a road there, for example, and housing just wouldn't make sense. She noted that the latest Growth Capacity Report for the City indicates that the City has the capacity for 11,000 new units on vacant and re-developable land, mostly in Central Issaquah, and the City wants to protect the hillsides from development as much as possible.

Leeson concluded her presentation on the timeline and review process for the proposed amendments (schedule on page 51) and noted that Comp Plan amendment discussions will continue at PPC's July 9 meeting.

Public Comment on Comp Plan Amendments

None.

REPORTS

a) **Council Updates**

Presented by:

Christen Leeson, Senior Planner

Leeson reported that last Monday, the City Council approved the 2022-2027 Capital Improvement Plan. Dhaliwal reported on Council's deliberations to allow a minor tax break on property owned by King County in exchange for preserving it as open space. The King County Council will be taking action on that soon. She also reported on discussions with the Title 18 Ad

Hoc Committee about PPC's request to discuss goals and outcomes for the Title 18 update, and staff is proposing to spend time at the next meeting on that issue. The Committee and staff also discussed ways to launch the education process that PPC discussed at the last meeting.

Dhaliwal shared some images of the properties discussed tonight, taken from Google Maps.

MILLIGAN commented that the anticipated Rowley development will add significantly to the Newport Area neighborhood, including connectivity, and she thinks that the proposed park and trails will be well used by the public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Upcoming Schedule: Leeson noted that PPC's schedule has filled out, particularly after talking through the last meeting's discussion with the consultant about PPC's role in reviewing the Title 18 update. It is likely we will add meetings in December and early 2022, she said, and asked whether scheduling a meeting on November 4 would be acceptable. There were no objections. Leeson asked Commissioners to email her with any dates of upcoming meetings when they anticipate needing to be absent.

Dhaliwal reported on staff's discussions regarding a strategy for training opportunities, as discussed at the last PPC meeting. One option is to schedule a site visit of a larger project and study how code was applied. She asked for reactions. MONAHAN spoke in favor and said early evenings on weeknights would probably be best. Others agreed. Staff will follow up to schedule a tour.

ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowe
Recording Secretary